

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

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20 JAN. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

a. Souvanna was all smiles yesterday over the agreement on the "general outlines" of a coalition government reached with Boun Oum, but the latter's commitments are at best conditional and at worst a device for winning time. It would seem that Boun Oum has done no more than signify that he may be willing to drop his claims to the defense and interior ministries. The true test will come when this, and other coalition arrangements, are again discussed.

b. Boun Oum is leaving for home today, probably accompanied by Phoumi, meaning apparently that this phase of discussions is over.

c. While the Geneva parleys were going on, communications among Phoumi's military forces were again referring to plans for an offensive against enemy-held positions. We have no evidence, however, that any such action has begun.

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2. Congo

a. Gizenga has arrived in Leopoldville.
b. The UN is making reconnaissance flights in an attempt to locate the Congolese troops who have been rampaging along the Katanga-Kivu border. They are still on the loose, but there are reports that their commander, Gizengist Col. Pakassa, has been captured by the central government.

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d. Tshombé, has also requested a US visa to enable him to attend a pro-Katanga rally in early March at Madison Square Garden.

3. Moscow continues to build up case against Communist dissidents

New attacks in Pravda on the opponents of Khrushchev's foreign policies--in which the Chinese, Albanian and Molotov issues are again linked--seem to indicate that Moscow is about to make its next moves in the controversy. The expulsion of Molotov from the party and the severance of Warsaw pact ties with Albania may now be on the docket. Pravda has also given Peiping a heavy hint that continued trouble-making could put a dangerous strain on their party relations.

4. New Guinea developments

a. Both Djakarta and The Hague have sent measured replies to U Thant on his appeal for calm. Although neither has indicated any shift in position, both have authorized their UN representatives to hold further discussions with the Secretary General.

b. Sukarno has, meanwhile, made a change in his military command which has the effect of kicking his pro-Communist, fire-breathing air force chief upstairs.

5. Impact of African states conference diluted by split over Algerian rebels

The Lagos conference of independent African states is still scheduled for January 22-30 but participation will be limited to the more moderate African states. Hopes that the radical African (the "Casablanca powers") could be drawn into a discussion of overall African problems and into an arrangement for generalized cooperation have been destroyed by the withdrawal of the radicals. This came as a result of the exclusion of the Algerian rebels from the conference, a move led by the French-oriented "Brazzaville group" of states.

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Yemen

plans by dissident Yemenis to assassinate the Imam.

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NOTES

- A. There was much celebrating in Santo Domingo yesterday, but it stayed pretty much within bounds. The Council of State has said that both Rodriguez and Balaguer may be put on trial. The latter has reportedly taken refuge with the Vatican Mission.
- B. Doubts among Algerian rebel leaders that De Gaulle will succeed in bringing the Secret Army Organization under control are helping to stall progress in negotiations. Rebel estimates credit the OAS with the support of at least 75 percent of the non-Moslem population in Algeria as well as 30 percent of the Moslems, the latter representing well-to-do vested interests.
- C. A land mine explosion just inside the East Berlin sector this morning has confirmed West German officials in their suspicions that the East Germans have mined the entire border.
- D. [redacted] indications of political troubles ahead for the new Syrian regime are beginning to appear [redacted]
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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE